

# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Property Detail Report

**CE-1452**

**Elkton Drive-In Theatre**

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**Inventory Number:** CE-1452

**Property Name:** Elkton Drive-In Theatre

**Address** Pulaski Highway E. (US 40)

**Town** Elkton

**Zip Code**

**USGS Quadrangle(s)** Elkton

**Digitized in GIS** Yes

**Number of polygons** 1

**designation in GIS** CE-1452

**Mapped on mylar** Yes

**Detail map code**

**Within NR district** No

**Within survey district** No

**Materials in vertical file** No

**Other**

## Additional Designations:

☐ National Register

☐ Preservation Easement

☐ Determinations of Eligibility

☐ Contributing Resource Determinations of Eligibility

☐ Related Inventory Numbers

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Elkton Drive-in Theatre Survey Number: NA CE-1452

Project: Proposed Wal-mart store Agency: COE

Site visit by MHT Staff: no X yes Name L.L. Bowlin Date 03/09/92

Eligibility recommended        Eligibility **not** recommended XX

Criteria:   A   B   C   D Considerations:   A   B   C   D   E   F   G   None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Surrounded by strip development and modern housing, the Elkton Drive-in Theatre is located on the south side of Rt. 40 in Elkton, Cecil County. Drive-in theaters were first developed in the 1930s but they did not gain the national popularity until immediately after World War II. Constructed circa 1950 during the drive-in boom, the Elkton theatre is a very poor example of the property type during its heyday. The screen tower displays a large, blocky configuration of two components. Its construction was fast; its materials cheap: simple plywood, concrete block and steel supports. The complex consists of the screen tower, two announcement boards, a concession building and plywood screen. The complex is void of typical art deco styling and does not represent a unique example. The integrity of the resource has been compromised since its vacancy: original materials have been removed and/or severely deteriorated. In addition, the theater is less than 50 years old and does not possess exceptional significance. A much better example of an early drive-in theater is located in Beltsville on Rt. 1, called Sydney Lust's Drive-in Theater.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: OPS project file

Prepared by: LLB

L. Bowlin  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes    no    not applicable

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR program Date 3.12.92

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

## I. Geographic Region:

- ☒ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

## II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

## III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- ☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaption

## IV. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture  
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
☒ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☒ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☒ Transportation

## V. Resource Type:

Category: siteHistoric Environment: suburbanHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): recreation and culture

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_



ELKTON

DRIVE-IN  
THEATRE



CE - 1452

Elkton Drive-In Theatre

3/92

Elkton Public Works

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MARCH 92 7

MARCH 92 7



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ELKTON DRIVE-IN THEATRE

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